

.. ANNUAL ..



REPORT..

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

EPPING UNION

Rural Sanitary District



FOR THE YEAR 1896.



EPPING:

ALFRED B. DAVIS, Market Place.

1897.

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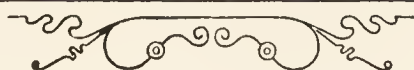
ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Epping Union Rural Sanitary District



.. FOR THE YEAR 1896 ..

.....

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Epping Rural District, for the year 1896.

Following upon the important changes in the constitution of the district, by the severance of the Chingford and Buckhurst Hill Urban Districts in the year 1894, we have during the past year witnessed the old "Epping Special Drainage District," formed into the new "Urban District of Epping," with its own Council and its separate organisation—the Epping Rural District thus becomes reduced to the following dimensions and population, viz. :—

Area, 40,213 acres.

Population (1891 Census), 15,952.

with a Rateable Value of £113,053.

Inasmuch, however, as the Urban District of Epping did not come into existence as such until the month of April, the area and population of the Rural District (allowing in the latter case for the usual increase), were the same for the first three months of the past year, as they were for the previous year. The removal of three important centres of population from the Rural District cannot fail to have an appreciable effect in benefiting its statistical returns of rates of mortality, a fact which should be kept in mind when comparing the figures for the past two years with those of the years preceding. There remain now in the Rural District only Loughton and Harlow as considerable centres of population, and as that of the former has been increasing rapidly during the past few years, as compared with other parts of the district, it will not be surprising should a demand for yet another Urban Council be forthcoming before long. With the exception of these changes, the general conditions affecting the health of the Rural District remain as heretofore. I shall endeavour to give prominence to each of these conditions as I proceed with the sanitary history of the past year.

(II.) *Periodic Inspections.*

During the months January, February, March, April and May, amongst others, the following places required special inspection in consequence of the occurrence of infectious cases of disease, viz. : St. John's Road, Queen's Alley and Rood Street, Epping ; Coppice Row, Theydon Bois ; Thornwood Common, North Weald Gullet, Bell Common, Duck Lane, Back Street and other places in Harlow ; Tidy's Lane, Epping. Inspections were also made upon different occasions of the Epping and Theydon Garnon National Schools in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, and of the Epping Isolation Hospital in the month of January, when Dr. Thresh came to report upon that building to the County Council, with reference to an application by your Council for the formation of an Hospital District under the Isolation Hospitals' Act. The result of Dr. Thresh's report to the County Council being unfavourable, led to the rescinding of the Resolution by your Council.

Later on in the year, systematic inspections were made of Woburn Avenue, Theydon Bois, where the absence of sewerage provision for some twenty-eight houses, as well as for others in the neighbourhood, was brought to your notice in a special report dated June 17th. In the month of August systematic inspections were made, in company with your Sanitary Inspector, of the Loughton Sewerage Works, of the Harlow Sewerage Works, and in the same way of Epping Upland and of Roydon. The inspection of Roydon included a visit to the whole of the Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses and Dairies, and resulted in a number of improvements in regard to construction, drainage and cleansing. In September a general inspection, with the Sanitary Inspector, was made of the houses and premises in Sheering Street, and in certain parts of Harlow, which was followed by a number of alterations and improvements, and was the subject of another special report to your Council. In October and November re-inspections were made of certain premises in Roydon and neighbourhood, which were again the subject of special reports to your Council. In December inspections were made of houses in Coppice Row and Woburn Avenue, Theydon Bois ; as well as of certain houses at Rye Hill and Epping Upland, when defects, and the proper remedy, were brought under the notice of the Sanitary Inspector.

(III.) *Sanitary Improvements Effected.*

Although no single sanitary improvement of an extensive character has been undertaken during the year, a considerable amount of work has been done in various directions. In Loughton, the sewers have been extended along Alderton Road and Cemetery Road ; the sewer at Upper Park has been taken up and relaid. It may be mentioned that whilst the sewer man-holes near the Cemetery were being inspected to discover the cause of offensive smells, which had frequently been complained of, an explosion of coal-gas took place, but fortunately without serious injury to the workmen. New flushing tanks have been erected for the sewers

at Harlow. A culvert and brook at North Weald, and a large pond at Debden Green, have been cleansed.

The water-mains have been extended to some eighty houses in the Harlow District. Two wells at Sheering have been taken over and made public. The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which follows, gives in detail further improvements which have been effected.

INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	814
Notices to abate or remove nuisances	...	...	...	...	309
Letters <i>re</i> nuisances, water supply, etc.	...	...	...	...	520
Certificates given for new houses under Water Act	...	...	...	...	34
Number of houses certified	...	...	...	...	70
„ new houses connected to public sewers	...	...	...	...	41
„ samples of water submitted to M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	3
„ dairies and cowsheds, etc., on register	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ „ registered during the year	...	...	...	...	8
„ persons registered under Infant Life Protection Act	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT.

Number of notices to make dwellings habitable	...	...	...	...	3
„ houses under notice	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ made habitable after notices	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ closed or pulled down	...	...	...	...	5

DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of notices to abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ provide new privies or w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ „ spouts and gutters to roofs	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ repair and make habitable	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ „ limewash interiors	...	...	...	...	13
„ dwellings repaired and made habitable	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ pulled down	...	...	...	...	3

DRAINAGE, ETC.

Number of notices to connect house drains with sewers	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ cleanse and drain premises	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ construct cesspools to drains and privies	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ „ filters „ „	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ cover over and ventilate cesspools and drains	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ divert drains from ditches	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ disconnect sink and bath pipes	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ empty and cleanse cesspools and tanks	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ open and cleanse drains	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ provide gully-traps to drains	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ remove w.c.'s and pipes from inside dwellings	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ ventilate drains and cesspools	...	...	...	...	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of infectious cases removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	47
„ dwellings disinfected	...	...	...	...	74
„ printed instructions given to parents, etc.	...	...	...	...	126
„ notices to disinfect clothing	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ houses and rooms	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ „ public conveyances	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ „ schools	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ <i>re</i> employing persons from infected houses	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to limewash, etc., rooms after infection	...	...	...	...	34
„ „ isolate cases of infection	...	...	...	...	4

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of notices to provide domestic supply	...	...	...	84
„ „ „ W.C.'s with water	...	...	...	6
„ „ cleanse water tanks	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ wells	...	...	...	2
„ „ close „	...	...	...	1
„ „ protect and cover over wells	...	...	...	3
„ „ repair pumps	...	...	...	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of notices to cleanse brooks, ditches and ponds	...	...	23
„ „ discontinue carting and depositing offensive matter	...	...	10
„ „ „ slaughtering animals in improper places	...	...	2
„ „ dust contractors	...	...	19
„ „ limewash bakehouses	...	...	3
„ „ „ piggeries (1), slaughterhouse (1)	...	...	2
„ „ pipe ditch	...	...	2
„ „ protect dangerous places and buildings	...	...	5
„ „ remove ashes and refuse	...	...	25
„ „ gipsy vans and tents	...	...	7
„ „ remove pigs and other animals	...	...	9
„ „ register cowsheds, etc.	...	...	10
„ „ „ under Infant Life Protection Act	...	...	2
„ „ surveyors and water companys	...	...	10

(Signed) JOHN H. BELL,
Sanitary Inspector.

(IV.)—Action taken to prevent the spread of Infection.

The cases of infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 159, viz., scarlet fever, 115; diphtheria, 24; typhoid fever, 6; simple continued fever, 2; erysipelas, 12. The districts in which these cases occurred, and the period of the year, are set forth in the following tables :—

NOTIFICATIONS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.
CHIGWELL, Sub-District ...	16	31	6	2	4	59
EPPING, Sub-Dis., Jan. Feb. Mch.	2	25	...	...	3	30
EPPING, Rural, Ap. 1st to Dec. 31st	1	2	...	...	1	4
HARLOW, Sub-District ...	5	57	...	...	4	66
TOTAL ...	24	115	6	2	12	159

NOTIFICATIONS IN DIFFERENT MONTHS.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria ...	3	5	2	...	3	...	1	5	2	1	2	...	24
Scarlet Fever ...	21	14	7	7	...	2	7	9	9	15	14	10	115
Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	6
Continued Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas ...	3	...	1	...	2	2	...	2	...	...	1	1	12
TOTAL ...	27	19	10	8	5	5	10	17	12	17	18	11	159

No case of small pox, membranous croup, or puerperal fever was notified during the year. Membranous croup appears to be losing its identity, as each year an increasing number of cases which would formerly have been described as membranous croup are now notified as diphtheria.

Active measures have been in operation throughout the whole year for the prevention of the spread of infection from—

SCARLET FEVER.

Early in January the disease broke out amongst the children attending the Epping and Theydon Garnon Schools, and although all cases which could be removed were taken to the Isolation Hospital, and the teachers were notified of all infected families in order that they might be excluded, these measures did not prevent the disease spreading, and it became necessary to advise the schools to be closed.

In February the disease broke out in North Weald, but fortunately was confined to three families. The Managers of North Weald Schools were notified of these, and advised to exclude them; the houses were disinfected, and no further action became necessary. During this month, and also in April, cases of the disease occurred at Harlow and Sheering, necessitating removal to Hospital and other precautions, but no spread of the disease followed. A serious outbreak of the disease occurred at Roydon in the month of October, due to the non-notification of the initial cases. These appeared to have been of a mild character, and as no doctor had been consulted, precautions were entirely ignored, some of the children being even allowed to attend the Board Schools, whilst other members of the family were lying at home ill with the disease. As a consequence the disease spread rapidly throughout the parish, one of the first victims being a teacher in the schools. When the circumstances became known, the schools were at once closed, and the whole of the cases were

removed to the Isolation Hospital, other precautions being at the same time taken, including the posting of notices throughout the district, calling attention to the provisions and penalties under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and warning the inhabitants that the same would be strictly enforced by your Council. About the same time (October) an outbreak of the disease occurred at Great Parndon, when several cases had to be removed to the Isolation Hospital, and it affected the school attendance to such an extent that in the month of November it was found necessary to close them also. In December an outbreak occurred at Theydon Bois which was traced to the National Schools, and which rendered necessary the closing of these schools, and the removal of several cases to the Isolation Hospital.

In the various outbreaks which have occurred in the district during the year, the disease has been of a favourable character, and not a single death has been caused by it.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was no serious outbreak of this disease in the district during the year. In January isolated cases occurred at Rood Street, Theydon Garnon, and at Hainault Road, Chigwell. In February similar cases occurred at Great Parndon, in "Uplands" Convalescent Home, Loughton, at Forest Road, Loughton, and at Forest-side, Epping. In March another case was notified from "Uplands Home" and one from Bird-cage Row, Harlow. In May a case was notified from Sheering, and another from "Uplands Home." In July a solitary case was notified from Roydon. In August five were notified from different parts of Loughton, in two of which infection was contracted outside the district; in another the disease was attributed to defective drainage, which has since been rectified. In September two further cases were notified from Loughton, the infection in the primary one being imported from Greenwich. In October, in another case notified from Loughton, infection was contracted in London. In November a case which proved rapidly fatal at an isolated cottage at Hastingwood Common was followed by another case in a relative who came home to attend the funeral, and who was afterwards stricken with the disease in her situation at Loughton. Of the twenty-four cases notified, it will be observed that as many as fourteen occurred in the parish of Loughton, but six of these were due to infection contracted elsewhere, and four occurred in "Uplands Convalescent Home," which receives chronic cases of illness, chiefly amongst children, from the London hospitals. It will be noticed that only one of the cases notified was removed to the Isolation Hospital, the reason being chiefly that the hospital wards were almost constantly occupied by scarlet fever patients during the year, and were consequently not available for other diseases.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Six cases of typhoid and two of continued fever were notified in the Chigwell sub-district during the year. Three of these

occurred in a house at Woburn Avenue, Theydon Bois, where the drainage is known to be very defective, and which I have several times brought under the notice of your Council. The question of providing drainage for this part of the district has no doubt been a difficult one to deal with, by reason of the scattered character of the residences, the wide area to be provided for, and the low rateable value of the district; but fortunately these difficulties seem now likely to be soon overcome, and we may hope before long to have an efficient sewerage scheme carried out. The only facts to be noticed with reference to the other cases were, that one was attributed to eating oysters, and another occurred in a family who had suffered from the disease in the previous year, although they had meanwhile changed residences.

AS REGARDS OTHER ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Measles, whooping-cough, diarrhœa, erysipelas, and influenza were only slightly prevalent, and do not call for special notice, except to say that in February the Harlow National Schools had to be closed in consequence of an epidemic of measles, and in April the Churchgate Schools, Harlow, had to be closed for the same cause. Rötheln (or German measles) was prevalent in an epidemic form in the Epping Rural and Theydon Bois Districts during the autumn.

The usual monthly returns of Notification Certificates have been sent regularly to Dr. Thresh, County Medical Officer, from whom the usual tabulated returns, and monthly meteorological reports have been received.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following table gives particulars of the cases treated in the Isolation Hospital during the year. They numbered 63, viz. : scarlet fever, 58; diphtheria, 4; erysipelas, 1. They included six patients from Buckhurst Hill, and ten from the Epping Urban District, from each of which, and the Chingford Urban District, your Council has an agreement to receive their infectious cases. Only one death occurred in the hospital during the year, this was the case of a young child suffering from diphtheria, who came from Buckhurst Hill, and lived only a few hours after coming in. I have already referred to Dr. Thresh's visit to the hospital in the month of January for the purpose of inspecting it with a view to reporting to the County Council upon an application which your Council had made for the formation of an Hospital District. The hospital could not be recommended chiefly because of its being constructed of wood, and not being large enough. Should it be decided to retain the hospital for the sole use of your district, I would point out that some better means for warming the wards must be provided. Wooden buildings are always difficult to warm in winter, and difficult to keep cool in summer, but in this hospital the matchboarding, and window sashes having shrunk, draughts are admitted in all directions, and it is with difficulty that a temperature of 50° F. can be maintained in cold weather. The arrangement of the hospital with two wards separated by a nurses' room, renders it quite unsafe to have patients suffering from more than one disease

at a time. Two wards allow of the separation of the sexes, but nothing more. It is a question for your Council to consider whether another brick pavilion, or at least another ward, with separate nurses' room, should not be added. It is also very desirable that a steam Disinfector should be provided.

Date of admission.		Sex.	Age.	District from which received.	Nature of disease.	Result.	
Jan.	9	Male	9 yrs.	Epping	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Feb. 13
"	14	Female	8 "	"	"	"	" 24
"	"	"	7 "	Harlow	"	"	" 13
"	17	"	9 "	Epping	"	"	" 29
"	28	"	8 "	Buckhurst Hill	Diphtheria	"	" 12
"	29	"	13 "	Epping	Scarlet Fever	"	" 29
"	"	"	8 "	"	"	"	Mar. 7
"	"	"	6 "	"	"	"	" "
Feb.	2	"	10 "	Parndon	Diphtheria	"	Feb. 24
"	"	"	13 "	"	"	"	" "
"	10	"	9 "	Epping	Scarlet Fever	"	Mar. 21
"	20	Male	6 "	Harlow	"	"	April 7
"	21	"	3½ "	Buckhurst Hill	Diphtheria	Died	Feb. 21
March	8	Female	7 "	Epping	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	April 13
"	9	"	14 "	Buckhurst Hill	"	"	" 18
"	19	"	10 "	Epping	"	"	" 13
"	31	"	11 "	Harlow	"	"	May 7
April	15	"	11 "	"	"	"	" 20
"	"	"	4 "	"	"	"	" "
"	23	Male	17 "	"	"	"	" 29
"	"	"	9 "	"	"	"	" "
"	"	Female	6 "	"	"	"	June 1
May	1	"	11 "	Epping	"	"	" 12
"	8	"	12 "	"	"	"	" 17
"	18	"	8 "	"	"	"	" 27
"	21	"	15 "	Buckhurst Hill	"	"	July 2
"	23	"	9 "	Epping	"	"	" 4
"	29	"	30 "	"	"	"	" 18
June	3	"	10 "	"	"	"	" 11
"	8	"	8 "	"	"	"	" 17
"	10	"	16 "	Buckhurst Hill	"	"	" 15
"	20	"	4 "	Epping	"	"	" 31
July	21	"	9 "	Harlow	"	"	Sept. 5
"	22	Male	4 "	"	"	"	" "
Aug.	7	Female	14 "	"	"	"	" 19
"	19	Male	10 "	Sheering	"	"	Oct. 3
"	"	Female	7 "	"	"	"	" "
"	21	"	11 "	North Weald	"	"	" "
"	"	"	3 "	" "	"	"	" "
"	"	Male	7 "	Harlow	"	"	" "
"	29	"	15 "	Sheering	"	"	" 10
Oct.	13	"	50 "	Buckhurst Hill	Erysipelas	"	" 29
"	"	Female	18 "	Roydon	Scarlet Fever	{ Removd to a Convalescent Home, November 4	
"	"	"	9 "	Chigwell	"	Disch'd	Nov. 20
"	28	"	26 "	Loughton	"	"	Dec. 3
"	29	Male	10 "	Roydon	"	"	" 9
"	"	"	29 "	"	"	"	" "
"	31	"	7 "	Loughton	"	"	" 11
"	"	Female	6 "	"	"	"	" "
"	"	"	4 "	"	"	"	" "

Date of admission.		Sex.	Age.	District from which received.	Nature of disease.	Result.	
Nov.	3	Male	38 yrs.	Roydon	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Dec. 24
"	7	Female	2 "	Great Parndon	"	"	" 21
"	9	"	19 "	Roydon	"	"	" 23
"	"	Male	4 "	"	"	"	" 31
"	13	Female	4 "	Great Parndon	"	"	" 21
"	"	Male	27 "	Roydon	"	"	" 24
Dec.	5	"	7 "	Theydon Bois	"	In hospital end of yr.	
"	"	Female	15 "	" "	"	"	"
"	"	"	11 "	" "	"	"	"
"	18	"	32 "	Epping	"	"	"
"	"	Male	13 "	"	"	"	"
"	29	"	9 "	Sheering	"	"	"
"	30	Female	11 "	Great Parndon	"	"	"

(V.) Cause and Distribution of Disease.

Several cases of zymotic diseases were imported into the district during the year. This was particularly so with reference to diphtheria and typhoid fever: but where these diseases were imported, neither was followed by any serious outbreak. As regards scarlet fever, which has been so prevalent in the district for some years past, the different outbreaks appear to have been of an endemic character, the common source of distribution being the public elementary schools. When cases of infectious disease are notified in any of the families attending these schools, the Medical Officer of Health has to report the fact to the managers or teachers, who should take steps to exclude the children. In this way it will sometimes happen that the spread of the disease is prevented, and the more serious measure of closing the schools is not called for. Unfortunately, however, it more often happens that the first cases of the disease may be so slight, or from other reasons, medical advice is not thought necessary, the disease is not recognised, and no precautions are taken, and by the time the outbreak comes under notice the schools are fully infected, and the disease is thoroughly established in the district. The pressure which is put upon parents to send their children to school is undoubtedly, to some extent, responsible also, for it is not unusual to find the parents pleading that, although they knew their children were unwell, they were afraid to keep them at home; and in the epidemics of scarlet fever which we have had during the past year, numbers of children sickening with the disease continued to attend school until vomiting had actually occurred there. The spread of disease in this way appears to be one of the penalties which has to be paid for the compulsory education of the people. At the same time, it must be allowed, I think, that it would be well if managers and teachers, in their laudable zeal for the welfare of their schools, would sometimes exercise a little more discretion. The advice of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board in this matter might be acted upon with advantage by school attendance officers and schoolmasters. Absence of children on the plea of illness should be at once notified to the Medical Officer of

Health. Schoolmasters should take note of any marked symptoms, such as heat of skin, shivering, headache, langour, vomiting, rashes, or sore throat. When any such symptoms are observed, especially when an epidemic threatens, or is present, the child should be excluded until assurance can be obtained that it may be safely re-admitted. It should be borne in mind that the parents are now almost completely debarred from exercising their discretion as regards the fitness, or otherwise, of their children to attend school, and that, therefore, a very serious responsibility belongs to those who are placed in a position of authority.

DEFECTIVE HOUSING OF THE PEOPLE.

Defective housing of the people has here again to be referred to as a fertile cause of disease in this district. A large proportion of the houses occupied by the working classes are old and decayed, built of wood, lath and plaster, or rotten bricks without damp-course. The foundations are bad, floors of broken bricks, windows which will not open, without fire-places in the bedrooms, and without spouting for the rain-water. In such houses as these, the youngest children constantly suffer from attacks of bronchitis, from which many of them die; children of maturer age suffer from acute rheumatism, or rheumatic fever, from which they frequently never recover. Adults suffer from anæmia and general asthenia; whilst those who succeed in passing the middle period of life, too often become prematurely incapacitated by chronic rheumatic arthritis, asthma and heart disease.

In conjunction with defective housing another too common cause of disease in this district is the nuisance of *overcrowding*. This exists to a large extent, and the evils which it produces, both upon the moral and physical health of the people, are too well known to need description. It is usually brought about in this district by the families having outgrown the accommodation of the houses, and the scarcity of houses too often prevents the grown-up members of the families marrying and setting up homes of their own.

(VI.)—*Sanitary Requirements of the District.*

From the foregoing remarks it will be gathered that one of the most pressing wants of the district is better house accommodation for the working classes. Year after year attention has had to be called to this subject, and with each year the difficulty increases. Houses, like everything else, wear out, and require to be renewed. The number which have been closed under the Housing of the Working Classes Act has not been large, but many more should have been closed were it not for the great scarcity of better houses, and the consequent difficulty which arises whenever a house is condemned. For the same reason much of the overcrowding has to be submitted to. Blue-book reports of the Labour Commission and of the Assistant Commissioners show beyond a doubt that the evil is widespread, and that the better housing of the working classes has become a great national question. Building speculators will tell you that it does

not pay to provide the class of houses required, and the question is far too large to be left to the chance help of private philanthropy. The powers given to local authorities under Part 3 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act are not considered to be practicable. Until, therefore, the matter is taken up by the Legislature in an earnest and energetic manner, and some better method of dealing with it has been devised, it does not seem that any effectual remedy will be forthcoming.

In the matter of providing better sewerage for the district, I am glad now to be able to record that your Council has decided upon a scheme for Woburn Avenue and Theydon Green. The occurrence of typhoid fever there during the year has no doubt helped to demonstrate the necessity for this. It would be well if sewers could be laid in other parts of the district referred to in my last year's report, without waiting for a similar demonstration.

The want of water at Rye Hill has been again much felt during the summer. The cottages here are entirely dependent upon ponds for their supply, and when these fail, as they commonly do during the summer, there is absolutely no water at all to be had. Under such circumstances a water-cart has sometimes been sent round by the owner of some of the cottages, or by the order of your Sanitary Inspector, but this is not by any means a satisfactory arrangement. Whether it would be possible to get water by sinking wells here I am unable to say, but, failing this, the only solution of the difficulty appears to be to approach the owners of the property there, with a view to coming to some arrangement with the Herts and Essex Company to carry their main from Thornwood Common, or from the nearest point to Rye Hill. In some districts where these mains are already laid the owners of houses are still objecting to take the supply, even in some cases where the houses may be said to be entirely without water. A case occurred at North Weald, which was brought under the notice of your Council in my report of July 29th, in which, owing to a dispute between the owner and the Water Company, the latter cut off their supply, with the result that the occupants of four houses have been left without a drop of water fit for use. What the legal bearings of the case were I know not, but I understand that your Council were of opinion that the dispute was simply one between the owner and the company, and that you were not called upon to interfere. The owner and the Company have not yet, nor do they seem likely, to come to terms, and the people are still without water. Surely it is very wrong that this should be so. It does not seem to be generally known in the district that the Herts and Essex Company are not liable for a constant supply, and that all houses should, therefore, be provided with storage cisterns.

(VII.) Special Reports made during the Year.

1. *June 17th—Re Drainage of Woburn Avenue and Theydon Green.*
2. *July 2nd—Re Dwelling houses at North Weald without a water supply.*

3. *Sept. 15th—Re* Scarlet Fever at Sheering, Netteswell, and Harlow.
4. *Oct. 21st—Re* Scarlet Fever at Roydon, and other places in the Epping Rural District.
5. *Nov. 5th—Re* Ditto. Ditto.
6. *„ 19th—Re* New cases of Infectious Diseases in the district since the 5th inst.
7. *Dec. 16th—Re* Outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Theydon Bois.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The alteration which has taken place in the area and population of the district, has rendered the calculation of vital statistics for the past year a matter of some difficulty. From the Census returns of 1891, it is found that the population of the district was then 15,952, and by adding to this an estimated annual increase 129·2 for five years, we arrive at an estimated population for the past year of 16,598.

BIRTHS.

The births registered during the year were 436, but as these included, for the first quarter, the births which occurred in the present Urban District, a deduction, estimated at 26, has been made, leaving 410, which gives a birth-rate of 24·7 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered amongst persons living in the district were 223. To these must be added 19 deaths of persons belonging to the district, which occurred in Epping Union Workhouse. There were, however, 19 deaths within the district of persons not properly belonging to it, so that we have a total of 223 deaths for the year, which gives a death rate of 13·4 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The 223 deaths included 41 of infants under one year of age belonging to the district, which gives a rate of infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, equal exactly to 100 per 1,000.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

The principal zymotic diseases caused 28 deaths, viz: diphtheria, 5; membranous croup, 1; typhoid fever, 2; measles, 4; whooping-cough, 3; and diarrhoea and dysentery, 13. The rate of mortality due to these diseases, allowing for imported cases, was equal to 1·5 per 1,000.

Tables A and B, classifying the deaths and new cases of sickness in the district during the year, are appended to this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

TREVOR FOWLER,

L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., Camb.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE EPPING UNION RURAL

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Epping, February 12th, 1897.

